



SHERMAN ISLAND WHALE'S MOUTH HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

Western Delta

PALUSTRINE EMERGENT WETLANDS, UPLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITATS

The Sherman Island Whales Mouth Wetland Restoration Project restored approximately 600 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands, within an 877-acre project boundary, on a nearly 975-acre parcel of property on Sherman Island that is owned by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The property is currently managed for flood irrigated pasture land, which includes a regular and extensive disturbance regime associated with field prepping, disking, and grazing.

Initial site preparation included vegetation removal prior to earth moving activities. Work was scheduled to accommodate approved giant garter snake work windows. Earth moving activities included constructing the site's interior and perimeter berms, loafing islands, swales and potholes.

The ultimate outcome of the restoration project is hundreds of additional acres of freshwater emergent wetlands. Each wetland unit is a mosaic of open water channels and emergent vegetation comprised predominantly of California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus/Scirpus californicus*) and narrow leaved cattails (*Typha angustifolia*). Other native plant restoration components include installation of native trees and shrubs compatible with their respective hydrologic regime as well as a substantial amount of upland transitional area, all of which provide a diversity of habitat structure and function.

RESTORATION TOTALS

- ▶ 600 acres of emergent wetlands

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Reverse subsidence on a section of low-lying Sherman Island by permanently flooding it, while also improving the habitat available to wildlife occurring in the area.
- ▶ Increase stability and reduce seepage on a threatened section of the levee.
- ▶ Determine the rates/amounts of carbon sequestered for the project.
- ▶ Determine the air and water quality impacts of the project.
- ▶ Provide recommendations for Delta-wide implementation.

LANDOWNER

Reclamation District 341 (Sherman Island) and DWR



FUNDING

- Planning, Design, and Construction - Prop 1E, State Water Contractors (SWC), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Green House Gas (GHG) Grant
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) – Prop 1E, SWC Funds, DFW GHG Grant. GHG pays O&M through 2020

PERMITTING

- All required permits completed in 2015

TIMELINE

- Initial topographic surveys, restoration design - Spring-Summer 2013
- Issue Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Permitting - November 2013
- Project Construction and restoration - Spring-Summer 2014
- Project implementation: flooding and monitoring - Fall 2014
- Additional Construction – Spring-Summer 2015
- Project Completed in 2015

PROJECT PROPONENT

- Bryan Brock, Senior WR Engineer
 bpbrock@water.ca.gov
 (916) 651-0836
 Department of Water Resources
 PO Box 942836
 Sacramento, CA 94236

